

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

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TAGS: OEXC, PO, ELAB

SUBJECT: PROJECT FOR LABOR LEADERS

REFS: (A) STATE 199203, (B) LISBON 5783

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO NOMINATE ALTERNATE CANDIDATE FOR 30-DAY PROJECT FOR LABOR LEADERS TO OBSERVE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ACTIVITIES, OCTOBER 7, TO NOVEMBER 5, 1976. PREVIOUS NOMINATION OF ANTONIO DOS SANTOS ANUNCIACAO IS WITHDRAWN. AS MENTIONED IN ORIGINAL NOMINATING MESSAGE, EMBASSY RECOGNIZED THAT INCLUSION OF LABOR JOURNALIST IN GROUP MIGHT COMPLICATE PROGRAMMING.

2. NEW NOMINEE IS MANUEL BIDARRA DE ALMEIDA, A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR FRONT (FDT) SINCE 1974. BIDARRA IS WELL THOUGHT OF IN BOTH SOCIALIST PARTY AND PPD LABOR CIRCLES. HE HAS WRITTEN A NUMBER OF WELL BALANCED ARTICLES ON THE POLITICAL/LABOR SITUATION WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN LISBON PRESS AS WELL AS IN THE FDT BULLETIN.

3. THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR FRONT IS OUTGROWTH OF YOUNG CATHOLIC WORKERS (JOC) MOVEMENT WHICH EXISTED IN SEMI-CLANDESTINE FASHION IN PORTUGAL PRIOR TO 1974 REVOLUTION. THE FDT LOST ITS JOC TIES WHEN THAT ORGANIZATION SUBSEQUENTLY SPLIT INTO TWO FACTIONS, -- BASE, WHICH INCLUDES MORE RADICAL

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ELEMENTS, AND THE FDT, WHICH INCLUDES A MIXTURE OF SOCIALIST

AND POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PPD) SUPPORTERS. FDT IS UNDERTAKING AN EDUCATIONAL AND POLITICAL MOTIVATION ROLE AMONG WORKERS RATHER THAN SEEKING TO ORGANIZE UNIONS AS SUCH. THERE IS LITTLE OR NO JOC/WCL INFLUENCE CURRENTLY EVIDENT IN FDT PROGRAMS.

4. NOMINEE NORMALLY GOES BY NAME OF MANUEL BIDARRA, AVOIDING USE OF FULL NAME EXCEPT FOR LEGAL PURPOSES. BORN DEC 27, 1930. IN CARIA, PORTUGAL. RESIDES AT RUA CIDADE DE MOCAMEDES, 250 - 1 - DTO., LISBOA 6. EDUCATED AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL -- SECOND YEAR AT SUPERIOR INSTITUTE OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY AND A COURSE ON PUBLIC RELATIONS AT THE INSTITUTE OF NEW PROFESSIONS.

5. NOMINEE HAS RECORD OF DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION ACTIVITY EXTENDING TO PERIOD PRIOR TO REVOLUTION. SERVED AS ELECTED DELEGATE FOR METALLURGICAL SECTOR TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF OFFICE WORKERS FROM 1966 TO 1971. ELECTED TO WORKERS COMMISSION OF LISNAVE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF PERSONNEL SECTION FOR 1975/76. EXECUTIVE COMMISSION OF FDT SINCE 1974. FOUNDING MEMBER OF PRAGMA COOPERATIVE IN 1963 UNTIL IT WAS CLOSED BY PORTUGUESE SECRET POLICE IN 1967. FOUNDING MEMBER AND PART OF COORDINATING COMMISSION OF ECONOMIC STUDY GROUP, SEDES, 1970 - 72.

6. NOMINEE HEADED RECRUITMENT SECTION OF LISNAVE SHIPYARD FROM 1966 UNTIL 1973. LISNAVE IS LARGEST INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE IN PORTUGAL, EMPLOYING SOME 12,000 WORKERS. DURING THIS PERIOD HE MADE TRIPS THROUGH EUROPE TO RECRUIT QUALIFIED WORKERS FROM AMONG PORTUGUESE EMIGRANTS. HE WAS CHIEF OF PERSONNEL SERVICES FROM 1973 TO 1975 AND IS CURRENTLY HANDLING SPECIAL PROJECTS RELATED TO PERSONNEL.

7. NOMINEE TRAVELED TO WEST GERMANY IN 1975 FOR 15 DAY UNION TRAINING COURSE. HE RETURNED IN 1976 AS A PARTICIPANT IN A SEMINAR SPONSORED BY THE FRG METALLURGICAL WORKERS FEDERATION (IG METAL) DEVOTED SOLELY TO THE SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY.

8. NOMINEE IS MARRIED TO ROSA MENDES BELO BIDARRA DE ALMEIDA, WITH WHOM HE HAS CHILDREN 13, 15, AND 18 YEARS OF AGE.
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WIFE IS ELECTED MEMBER OF WORKERS COMMISSION OF THE NATIONAL NAVIGATION COMPANY, PORTUGAL'S MAJOR SHIPPING FIRM.

9. POST CLEARANCE GRANTED. BIDARRA HAS SOME LIMITED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY, RATING ABOUT AN S-1 PLUS, R-3 ON THE FOREIGN SERVICE SCALE. HE SPEAKS ALSO SPANISH AND COULD UTILIZE AN ENGLISH/SPANISH INTERPRETER IF ONE IS ALREADY PROGRAMMED FOR THE GROUP.

10. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THIS ALTERNATIVE NOMINATION IS LATE AND REQUESTS SPECIAL CONSIDERATION. BELIEVE THAT CONTACT WITH LABOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM U.S. AS WELL AS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES DURING SUBJECT PROGRAM WILL BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN BROADENING OUTLOOK OF PORTUGUESE LABOR MOVEMENT.

11. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF FY-76 TQ FALL-OUT FUNDS WILL COVER BIDARRA. IF NOT, HE IS NOMINATED FOR FY-77 FUNDING.
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